1

DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

DEBRA SPERO, as Natural Mother of V.S., an infant,

Plaintiff,

-against-

VESTAL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION, VESTAL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, JEFFREY AHEARN, Superintendent of Schools, ALBERT A. PENNA, Interim Principal Vestal High School, DEBORAH CADDICK and CLIFFORD KASSON, in their Individual and Official capacities,

Defendants.

A deposition held on Friday, the 25th day of January, 2019, commencing at 10:02 a.m.

BEFORE: Ruth I. Lynch

Registered Professional Reporter

Registered Merit Reporter

NY/PA Notary Public 28874 State Route 171 Susquehanna, PA 18847

(570) 396-1459

WITNESS: KATHARINE DYER

```
9
 1
                    MS. YOUNG: Well, could you repeat it?
 2
                     (The stenographer read back.)
 3
            Α
                    We live in Vestal and my children were
     starting school, and I wanted to become part of that
 4
 5
     community and that school district and to be more
 6
     available to be on the same schedule as my own kids.
 7
     BY MS. YOUNG:
                    Were you ever disciplined when you were
 8
     at Johnson City School District?
 9
10
            Α
                    No.
11
                    So you know who Vinny Spero is,
12
     correct?
13
                    Correct.
14
                    And you first met him in September of
            0
15
     2016?
16
            Α
                    Correct.
17
                    Okay. And he was in your fourth period
            Q
18
     Foundations of Math class.
19
                    Foundations of College Math, yes.
            Α
20
                    Can you describe the class in terms of
            Q
21
     size?
22
                    It -- it varied, you know, as people
23
     moved around in the beginning of the school year, but
24
     around 25.
25
                    Can you tell us approximately how that
            Q
```

```
12
1
                    MS. YOUNG: Correct.
 2
                    MR. SPAGNOLI: Thank you.
 3
     BY MS. YOUNG:
 4
                    I'm going to hand you what's been
            Q
 5
    marked as Exhibit A and ask you if you recognize that
 6
     document?
 7
            Α
                    Yes.
 8
                    And can you describe to us what it is?
            Q
 9
                    MR. SPAGNOLI: The entire document or
10
            just the first page?
    BY MS. YOUNG:
11
12
                    Well, start with the first page.
            0
13
                    MR. SPAGNOLI: Thank you.
                    The first page is a copy of the seating
14
15
     chart from approximately the third week of September.
16
     BY MS. YOUNG:
17
                   Okay. Until when? When did you change
     it to the next seating chart?
18
19
                    I am -- I don't remember for sure.
            Α
                                                         Α
20
     few weeks later.
21
                    Is this the seating chart that was
22
     being used when Vinny made a comment that you felt was
23
     inappropriate?
24
                   What comment?
            Α
25
            Q
                    Well, let me ask you this: Did Vinny,
```

```
13
     while that seating chart was in effect, say something
 1
     in class about the grouping of students, and if so
 2
     what?
 3
                    After they came and sat down, he was
 4
            Α
     sitting here next -- in the second row, first seat.
 5
 6
                    Him being Vinny.
            Q
 7
                    Vinny, yes.
            Α
 8
            Q
                    Okay.
                    And he said to Isaac Dillard, who was
 9
            Α
10
     in the front middle of the room, you belong with us.
11
                    MR. SPAGNOLI: Let the record reflect
            that when the witness indicated here in
12
13
            connection with where Vincent was sitting, she
14
            pointed to the desk that has the name Vincent
15
            crossed out over it.
16
     BY MS. YOUNG:
17
                    Okay. How many days into that seating
            Q
18
     plan did Vinny make that comment?
19
                    The very first day.
            Α
20
                    Did you ask Vinny what he meant by
            Q
21
     that?
22
                    No.
            Α
23
            Q
                    Did you make any comment?
                    At the end of class I talked to him
24
            Α
25
     about it.
```

```
14
 1
                    And what happened during that
 2
     conversation?
 3
                    I said I hope you know I would never be
 4
     thinking about that when I was making a seating chart.
 5
                    And what did you mean about that?
            Q
 6
            Α
                    About race.
                    Okay. How did you know that's what
 7
            Q
     Vinny meant?
 8
 9
                    Because he alluded to that in his
            Α
10
     comment.
11
                    And the other students laughed at it,
12
     and.
13
                    Looking at the chart, was, is it Isaac?
            Q
14
            Α
                    Isaac.
15
                    Was Isaac the only student of color
            0
16
     sitting in the front row? If you recall.
17
                    Again, depending on how people identify
     themselves, you know, many students in Vestal are --
18
19
     have a variety of backgrounds.
20
                   Uh-huh. But as far as if you could --
21
     you can tell. Would you have said that Isaac was the
22
     only student of color in the front row?
23
            Α
                    Yes.
24
                    How about the -- not counting the desks
25
     that appear kind of on an angle, behind that, the six
```

```
15
1
     desks in the middle of the second row, were there any
 2
     students of color in that row?
                    MR. SPAGNOLI: You mean in the six
 3
            desks in the middle of the front row?
 4
 5
                    MS. YOUNG: Middle, yes.
 6
            Α
                    Again, I -- I've seen their sheets
     since and how they would register, and I can tell you
 7
     that none of them registered as African-American.
 8
     BY MS. YOUNG:
 9
10
                   Okay. How about the -- right behind
     that, the middle six seats? Were any of those
11
     students students of color?
12
13
                   None of them have registered as
     African-American either.
14
15
                   Okay. How about the student next to
            0
16
    Vinny?
17
                   Shafiqa?
            Α
18
            Q
                    Yes.
19
                    She is registered as an
            Α
20
    African-American.
21
                    Okay. And how about the two seats in
22
     back of that student and Vinny?
23
                    They are not registered as
24
     African-American.
                    Okay. And did you perceive them as
25
            Q
```

16 1 students of color at the time? 2 I never thought about it at the time. 3 0 Okay. Even after Vinny made that comment to you, you didn't think about that? 4 5 No. Α 6 Okay. How about the students on the 7 angled, the six angled desks, on the other side of the room from where Vinny was? 8 9 They are not registered as 10 African-American. 11 And, but did you perceive them as students of color? 12 13 I never made a judgment or remember thinking of that. 14 15 Okay. But when Vinny made the comment 16 he did to Isaac, you automatically thought -- or 17 take -- strike that. 18 When Vinny made the comment to you -to Isaac, you took that to mean he was commenting that 19 2.0 students of color were in the back. 21 Someone else then said back of the bus. Α 22 So was it that comment that made you 23 think that Vinny was alleging that the black students 24 were grouped together or was it Vinny's comment? 25 Α The two comments together.

```
17
 1
                    Did you speak to the other student who
 2
     said back of the bus?
 3
                    I am not sure who made that comment.
     It was in response to his comment where they laughed a
 4
 5
     little, and then. You know. Someone said something
 6
     more.
                    And what did Vinny say -- strike that.
 7
            Q
 8
                    When Vinny made the comment, did you
 9
     say to him that's inappropriate?
10
            Α
                    I do not recall. I did after class.
11
                    Okay. And when you told Vinny that you
12
     thought it was inappropriate and that you would never
13
     do that, what was his response to you?
14
                    I know, but you're new here.
15
                    Anything else?
            Q
16
            Α
                    I said I am not new at teaching.
17
                    And he said but you're new here.
18
            Q
                    Did you ask him what he meant by that?
19
                    No.
            Α
20
                    Did you change the seating chart after
            Q
21
     talking to Vinny?
22
                    The student that was sitting here
23
     switched to a different class, so there was an open
24
     seat there.
25
                    And by -- could you just tell us the
            0
```

```
18
1
     name of the student so we?
 2
                   Well, he's not on there. I erased his
 3
     name.
 4
                   Oh.
            Q
 5
                    His name was Kyle. And he was in the
            Α
 6
     front row next to Isaac.
 7
            Q
                    Okay.
8
                    MR. SPAGNOLI: Let the record reflect
 9
           that when the witness said here, she was
10
           pointing to the square that currently bears the
11
           name Jordan.
     BY MS. YOUNG:
12
13
              Oh, okay. I didn't think that was the
14
     one you pointed to.
15
            Α
                   Jordan.
16
            Q
                    That's because I'm looking at the wrong
17
     one.
18
                    MS. YOUNG: Thank you.
19
                    MS. PAYNE: That's because you're on B.
20
                    I think those are in a different order.
            Α
21
     BY MS. YOUNG:
22
                    Okay, so when did Jordan -- when did
     the other student next to Isaac leave the class?
23
24
                   Within a few days.
            Α
25
            Q
                    Okay. And what happened then with that
```

```
19
 1
     seat?
 2
                    I had Jordan move there.
 3
            0
                    And so you -- you were the one that
     chose that Jordan would move there.
 4
 5
                    Yes.
            Α
 6
                    Okay. And why did you move Jordan to
            0
     the front?
 7
 8
                    So he would have a partner.
            Α
 9
            0
                    Okay. And was Jordan a person of
10
     color?
11
                    He's not registered, no.
            Α
12
                    Does he have dark skin?
            0
13
                    Not -- he appears biracial.
            Α
14
                    Okay. So however it came about, would
            0
15
     you say that before Jordan was moved that students of
16
     color were grouped together?
17
            Α
                    No.
                    And how do you define students of
18
            Q
19
     color?
20
                    Students who consider themselves
            Α
21
     African-American.
22
                    Okay. Then let me rephrase my
     question. Would you say, however it came about, that
23
24
     in the first seating chart, what's marked as
25
     Exhibit 1, and it has the 7A designation, were people
```

```
20
1
     with darker skin than most caucasians grouped
 2
     together?
 3
                    MR. SPAGNOLI: Objection to form.
 4
            Α
                    No.
 5
     BY MS. YOUNG:
 6
                    Okay. Can you -- because I think we
            0
 7
     had some miscommunication between what I was thinking
     of when I said person of color and what -- apparently
 8
     what you were thinking, and that's my bad, I should
 9
10
     have defined it. But for the four seats around Vinny
11
     that are an angle, that are angled, and I guess that
12
     would be Shafiga, Vinny, Brynn, were those three
13
     students students with skin that was darker than
14
     caucasian?
15
                    MR. SPAGNOLI: Objection to form.
16
            Α
                    No. Brynn does not have darker skin.
17
                    Also there is other students, Isaac
18
     Dillard, who was up front, and other students who may
19
     have slightly noncaucasian skin that were in other
20
     spots too.
21
     BY MS. YOUNG:
22
                    Okay. Can you tell us who those were?
            Q
23
            Α
                    Chureen, Anthony.
24
                    Anyone else?
            Q
25
            Α
                    Not that I recall.
```

2.2 1 Go ahead. 2 Vincent made a comment about it. is the only thing. 3 BY MS. YOUNG: 4 5 And another student said back of the Q 6 bus, correct? 7 That doesn't mean he was of color, I do not know who said that. 8 9 Would it make a difference if the 10 student was white? 11 Well, you just said two students of color perceived it, and that is not a true statement. 12 13 Okay. Let me rephrase it, then. 14 two students in that class indicated to you that they 15 perceived that the students of color were grouped 16 together in the back, correct? 17 Α One student made a comment, another 18 student went along with the joke. 19 And who told you it was a joke? Q 20 Α They were laughing. 21 So that the change to the -- this 22 seating chart that you made was occasioned by -- the 23 immediate change was occasioned by the student sitting 24 next to Isaac leaving the class. 25 Α Yes.

```
2.4
1
                    This room is -- is --
 2
                    MR. SPAGNOLI: There's no question
            before you.
 3
 4
                    THE WITNESS: Okay.
 5
     BY MS. YOUNG:
 6
               Looking at 7B, which is the second page
 7
     of Exhibit A, when did this seating chart get
8
     implemented, about?
 9
                   A few weeks later.
            Α
10
            0
                    And how did you determine this seating
11
     chart?
12
            Α
                    Again students' needs, who would work
13
     well together, what would be best from a teaching
     standpoint in terms of personalities, in terms of
14
15
     students who needed more assistance, students who were
16
     doing well.
17
                    And the page marked 7B, Jordan is no
18
     longer sitting next to Isaac. Do you recall why that
19
     was?
                    The 7B?
20
21
            Α
                    Yes.
22
                    Almost everyone has a new partner.
23
     BY MS. YOUNG:
24
                    Okay. Were the seating charts random?
            Q
25
            Α
                    Yes.
```

```
25
1
                    Aside from student needs.
 2
                    Okay, I'm now going to have this marked
     for identification.
 3
 4
                    (Exhibit B was marked.)
 5
     BY MS. YOUNG:
 6
              Can you identify -- first of all, are
     you familiar with this document?
 7
8
                    I'd like to read it over.
            Α
 9
            Q
                    Sure.
10
            Α
                    (Reviews document).
11
                    MR. SPAGNOLI: Let her know when you're
12
            ready.
13
                   Oh, I'm ready.
     BY MS. YOUNG:
14
15
                    Oh, sorry.
            Q
16
                    Do you recognize this document?
17
            Α
                    Yes.
18
            Q
                    Okay. And were you the author of this
19
     document?
20
            Α
                    Yes.
21
                    Okay. And at the very bottom it says
22
     attached are four of the seating charts that we have
     utilized thus far this -- for this year.
23
24
                    Were the four pages that are marked as
25
     Exhibit A the -- what was attached to this memo?
```

```
29
 1
                    I don't recall.
 2
                    Did you take notes from your meeting
     with Miss Caddick?
 3
 4
                    No.
            Α
 5
                    And how are you so sure of that?
            Q
 6
            Α
                    I'm not in the habit of taking notes
 7
     during meetings with administrators.
 8
                    Okay. Have you ever?
            Q
 9
            Α
                    No.
10
                    Okay. So on November 22nd, 2016, an
            Q
11
     incident happened with a student named Isaac, correct?
12
                    Yes.
            Α
13
                    Can you tell us what happened?
            0
14
                    I saw a puff of smoke come out of his
15
     mouth.
16
                    And what did you -- what, if anything,
17
     did you do in reaction to that?
                    I called him into the hall to talk to
18
            Α
19
     him.
20
            Q
                    Uh-huh. And what happened -- what was
21
     said during your conversation?
22
                    I told him that that was not allowed in
23
     school, and I wasn't aware of the consequences for
24
     that, and I asked him to go to the assistant
25
     principals' office.
```

```
31
1
                    Or you can write it on a piece of
           Α
 2
     paper.
                   Okay, just a regular piece of paper and
 3
            Q
 4
     you would --
 5
                   Yep, any paper.
            Α
 6
                    Okay.
            Q
 7
                    MR. SPAGNOLI: Make sure she finishes
           her question --
 8
 9
                    THE WITNESS: Okay.
10
                    MR. SPAGNOLI: -- before you start your
11
            answer. You're doing good.
     BY MS. YOUNG:
12
               In order to -- is it true that in order
13
14
     to write a pass for him while you were in the hallway
15
     he would have either had to have his agenda book with
16
     him or you would have had to bring a piece of paper
     and a pen out?
17
                 I -- he had his stuff when he left.
18
19
                    Okay, but you don't remember whether
            Q
     you signed his agenda book.
20
21
                    I do not recall.
            Α
22
                    Okay. So I'm pre -- did you return to
23
     class as -- when Isaac walked away?
24
            Α
                    Yes.
25
                    Okay. And then what happened?
            Q
```

32 1 I was helping different groups around the room, and I heard a loud noise coming from the 2 3 group in the center of the room. And I went over, and 4 Vincent's phone was on. And making noise. 5 Do you recall what noise it was making? Q 6 Α No. Video or music. 7 Would students ever listen to music in 0 the class before this? 8 9 At times. Α 10 Okay. What kind of times? 0 11 Occasionally if they were working Α 12 independently with head phones. 13 Okay. Prior to this point had any 14 student listened to music during your class not in 15 head phones? 16 Α Not that I recall. 17 Going back to Exhibit A, can you tell 18 us if one of those charts depicts where students were 19 sitting on November 22nd? 20 The chart labeled 7B. Α 21 Okay, so Vincent is in the second row, 22 second from the left, correct? 23 This was the seating chart at that time 24 but they were -- they moved around to be with their 25 group.

```
34
 1
     middle row?
 2
                     (Nods head). Yes.
 3
                     When you heard the music or the video,
            0
 4
     did you say anything to Vinny?
 5
                     I walked over to his group, and I asked
            Α
     him to turn it off.
 6
 7
                     And he said what?
            Q
 8
            Α
                     No.
 9
                     Did that surprise you?
            Q
                     I don't recall.
10
            Α
11
                     Did you then repeat your request?
            Q
12
                     Yes.
            Α
13
                     Okay. And did he answer no once again?
            Q
14
                     Correct.
            Α
15
                     And then what did you say?
            Q
16
            Α
                     I said if you're not going to turn it
17
     off, I'm going to have to ask you to leave.
18
            Q
                     And did he reply?
19
                     He repeated that back in a mocking
            Α
20
     voice.
21
                     Repeated back what you said.
            Q
22
            Α
                     Correct.
23
            Q
                     Did that surprise you?
24
            Α
                     Yes.
25
            Q
                     Why?
```

```
35
 1
                    Just that he was saying it in such a
            Α
 2
     tone.
 3
            Q
                    Had you ever heard that tone from Vinny
     before?
 4
 5
                    No.
            Α
 6
                    Did you have any clue as to why he was
            Q
     speaking to you like that?
 7
 8
            Α
                    No.
 9
                    What happened next?
            Q
10
            Α
                    He packed up his stuff, and as he was
11
     packing up he looked at me and called me a fucking
12
     racist.
13
                    And then what happened?
            Q
                    I went in the hall and saw the
14
15
     paraprofessional and asked her to escort him to the
16
     office.
17
                    And when you say the office, what
     office did you mean?
18
19
                    Assistant principal.
            Α
20
                    And that was Miss Caddick?
            Q
21
            Α
                    And Mr. Kasson.
22
                    Okay. Are they both assistant
23
     principals for the senior class?
24
                    MR. SPAGNOLI: Object to form. Can you
25
            specify the time period you're talking about?
```

```
37
 1
            for the record Mr. Kasson of course is now
 2
            principal.
 3
                    MS. YOUNG: Right, correct.
     BY MS. YOUNG:
 4
 5
                    So when you instructed Isaac to go to
            Q
 6
     the office, you meant the office that had -- that
     contains both Mr. Kasson and Miss Caddick's --
 7
                    Yes.
 8
            Α
 9
                    -- offices, okay.
            Q
10
                    And the same with Vincent?
11
            Α
                    Yes.
12
                    How long was it between you speaking to
13
     Isaac and sending him to the office and the point
     where you heard Vinny's music?
14
                    10 to 15 minutes.
15
            Α
16
                    (Exhibit C was marked.)
17
     BY MS. YOUNG:
18
                    I'm handing you a two-page document
19
     marked as Exhibit C. I ask you to look at it. The
20
     title at the top is assistant principals' office
21
     student sign-in sheet.
22
                    Have you -- on the second page appears
23
     to be a student summary or schedule, which I don't
24
     know why, I think it -- we probably got this attached
25
     together.
```

```
41
 1
                     (Ms. Young conferred with Mr. Cotter.)
 2
                    MR. SPAGNOLI: Finish your answer.
 3
            Α
                    When I am not teaching I am often in
 4
     the halls, and I have not witnessed students being
 5
     asked where they're going.
 6
     BY MS. YOUNG:
 7
                    Did you send Isaac to the office with
            Q
 8
     an aide?
 9
            Α
                    No.
                    Why not?
10
            Q
11
            Α
                    I did not see her there at the time.
12
                    If you had not seen an aide in the
            0
13
     hallway with Vinny, what would you have done?
14
                    I don't know, because she was there.
15
                    Well, you didn't send Isaac with an
            0
16
     aide because there was no aide in the hallway,
17
     correct?
18
            Α
                    Correct.
19
                    So if there was no aide in the hallway
            Q
20
     when you were speaking to Vinny, why wouldn't you have
21
     done the same thing you did with Isaac?
22
                    MR. SPAGNOLI: Objection. Asked and
23
            answered.
24
                    Go ahead and answer it again.
25
                    There wasn't one there so I didn't
            Α
```

```
42
     think about what I would do.
 1
 2
     BY MS. YOUNG:
                    Did you think about what you would do
 3
            0
     with Isaac when there was no aide in the hall?
 4
 5
                    I would go to the office and check
            Α
 6
     after class to make sure he made it there.
                    And did you?
 7
            Q
 8
            Α
                    Yes.
 9
                    Did you notice what time he signed in
10
     when you went and checked?
11
            Α
                    No.
12
                    You called Mrs. Spero on November 22nd
13
     to discuss what happened in class, correct?
14
            Α
                    Yes.
15
                    Can you tell us about that
            0
16
     conversation?
17
            Α
                    It was a very poor connection.
18
                    I told her what had happened in class.
19
     And she listened. It was fine conversation with a
20
     parent, and at the end she mentioned something about
21
     me saying the N word. I assured her I would never say
22
     that and that did not happen.
23
                    And that was the end of the
24
     conversation.
25
                    And actually you testified at the
            Q
```

```
43
     superintendent's hearing that Miss Spero told you that
 1
 2
     Vinny claimed you said fucking nigger, correct?
 3
            Α
                    Yes.
 4
                    Niggers.
            Q
 5
                    What was your reaction when you heard
 6
     that Vinny had claimed that you said that?
 7
                    Very taken aback.
            Α
                    I would never say that.
 8
 9
                    Okay. Did you talk to anyone at the
     district about the fact that Vinny had told this to
10
11
     his mother and his mother communicated it to you?
12
                    Yes.
            Α
13
                    MR. SPAGNOLI: Objection, at what point
            in time?
14
15
     BY MS. YOUNG:
16
                    Okay, at any point in time did you talk
     to someone at the district, anyone at the district,
17
     about the claim that you had used that racial term?
18
19
            Α
                    Yes.
20
                    Okay. When?
            Q
21
            Α
                    I don't recall.
22
                    You don't recall if -- how -- how close
23
     in time to actually being told that Vinny was alleging
     this did you speak to someone?
24
25
            Α
                    By the end of the day.
```

```
49
 1
            November 22 for Miss Caddick, they don't exist
 2
            as far as I know.
                    MS. YOUNG: Well, I would still ask
 3
 4
            that the court reporter index that request.
 5
     BY MS. YOUNG:
 6
                    What did Mrs. Caddick say to you in the
 7
     first meeting you had with her on November 22nd?
 8
                    To call their parents.
            Α
 9
                    Did she say anything else?
            Q
10
            Α
                    I don't recall.
11
                    Okay. When you went back to speak to
12
     Miss Caddick for the second time that day, subsequent
13
     to your phone call with Miss Spero, what did she say?
14
                    I don't recall.
15
                    Do you recall about how long you spoke
            0
16
     to her?
17
                    I don't recall.
            Α
18
            Q
                    Okay. Did you tell anyone else about
19
     what Miss Spero had told you that Vinny was claiming
20
     you said?
21
                    I told my husband.
            Α
22
                    Anyone else at the school district?
            Q
23
            Α
                    No.
24
                    Did you tell anyone from the union?
            Q
25
            Α
                    No.
```

```
52
     November 22nd with Miss -- with Miss Caddick again on
1
 2
     November 28th?
                    I do not recall.
 3
                    MS. YOUNG: Let me just have this
 4
            document marked for identification.
 5
 6
                    (Exhibit D was marked.)
 7
     BY MS. YOUNG:
                    I'm showing you what's been marked as
 8
            Q
 9
     Exhibit D, and I'll give you a moment to look at it.
10
            Α
                    (Reviews document).
11
                    Can I go back to something for a
12
     moment? 'Cause I think that I have my dates wrong.
13
                    I stopped in and talked to her after
14
     school on December 1st. I am not sure at what point I
15
     told her about the comment that his mother made on the
16
     phone. I'm thinking about stopping in after school
17
     now, and the 1st was when the threats happened within
18
     the classroom, and that's when I stopped back in to
19
     see her. And she told me to write up the thing, and I
20
     emailed it to her. I'm not positive of the time when
21
     I told her about the -- what his mom said on the
22
     phone.
23
     BY MS. YOUNG:
24
               Okay. But it could have been on
     November 22nd?
25
```

```
53
1
                    I don't know. I don't know. I'm
 2
     thinking of our after-school -- quick after-school
 3
    meeting but that was on the 1st.
 4
                Okay. You had a meeting with Miss
 5
     Caddick on November 28th.
 6
                   This is what I'm looking at now?
 7
                   Well, I'm asking you, before you look
     at that, do you recall?
8
9
                    I don't recall. I don't have notes of
10
     what days we met.
11
                   Okay. I'll ask you to look at
12
     Exhibit D.
13
                   Can I ask you to clarify what it might
           Α
14
     say?
15
                    I don't know if I'll be able to answer
            Q
16
     you, but.
17
                   After this line?
            Α
18
                    MR. SPAGNOLI: I'm going to object to
19
            counsel effectively testifying as to what the
20
            document says.
21
                    THE WITNESS: Okay.
22
                    MR. SPAGNOLI: If you can't read it,
23
           you can't read it.
24
                    THE WITNESS: If I can't read it I
25
           can't read it, okay.
```

```
64
 1
     was placed on probation for senior activities
 2
     subsequent to November 22nd?
 3
            Α
                     Yes.
 4
                     Do you recall who told you?
            Q
 5
            Α
                     No.
 6
                     Do you recall when they told you?
            Q
 7
            Α
                     No.
 8
                     So on December 1st, 2016, you've
 9
     alleged that Vinny made some statements in class.
10
     you tell us what was happening in the classroom at the
11
     time that you allege Vinny made certain statements?
12
                     I was passing out papers at the front
            Α
13
     of the row, and he said my street name.
14
                     What words were the exact things he
     said?
15
16
            Α
                     Drexel.
17
                    And were other students speaking?
            Q
18
            Α
                     Yes.
19
                     So it was group work time, is that?
            Q
20
            Α
                     Not at that point; I was passing out
21
     the papers.
22
                     Did you ask Vinny what he meant?
            Q
23
            Α
                     No.
24
                     Why?
            Q
25
            Α
                     I was trying to run the class.
```

```
65
 1
                    Okay. What else did he say?
            Q
 2
                    The first and middle name of my
 3
     husband, Maxwell Lawrence.
 4
                    There are two students in the class
            Q
     named Maxwell, correct?
 5
 6
                    I don't think both of them their legal
 7
     name is Maxwell. There's -- they both went by Max.
                    Okay. And do you know what both of
 8
     their middle names are?
 9
10
            Α
                    No.
11
                    How soon after the Drexel comment did
12
     Vinny say Maxwell Lawrence?
13
                    I don't recall.
            Α
14
                    And was there another comment?
            0
15
                    Towards the end of class two students
16
     who were working together, Vincent and another
17
     student, were laughing about how funny something would
18
     be, and then they said my house number, four two o
19
     five.
20
                    And did you ask Vinny about the -- your
21
     husband's name comment?
22
            Α
                    No.
23
            Q
                    And did you ask him about the four two
     o five?
24
25
            Α
                    No.
```

```
67
 1
                    So is there any other way that a
 2
     student would know your husband's first and middle
     name?
 3
 4
                    MR. SPAGNOLI: Objection.
 5
            Α
                    I wouldn't be aware of that.
 6
     BY MS. YOUNG:
 7
                    Do you know if on the deed to your
            Q
 8
     house his full name is written out?
 9
                    I don't know.
            Α
10
                    Vinny wasn't yelling when he allegedly
11
     made these comments, was he?
12
                    Talking loud enough for me to hear.
            Α
13
                    Would you say it was in a normal voice?
            Q
14
                    Little louder.
            Α
15
                    Did you testify at the superintendent's
            0
16
     hearing that Vinny said it in a normal voice?
17
                    I don't recall.
            Α
18
                    Did you ask Vinny about these comments?
19
                    Not specifically about the comments,
            Α
20
     no.
21
                    Why not?
            Q
22
                    I felt that they should be run by
            Α
23
     administration first.
24
                    Did you speak to Vinny after class that
            Q
25
     day?
```

```
68
 1
                     As students were packing up, yes.
            Α
 2
                     And what did you say to him?
            Q
                     Is something bothering you.
 3
            Α
 4
                     And what was his response, if any?
            Q
 5
                     The way the school handles stuff.
            Α
 6
                     Did you ask him what he meant by that?
            Q
 7
            Α
                     No.
 8
            Q
                     Why?
 9
                     I'm not in charge of what the school
            Α
10
     does, so it's not my place.
11
                     Did you offer Vinny any suggestions on
12
     how to deal with what he was upset about?
13
                     He wasn't asking for any.
            Α
                     That wasn't my question. I said did
14
            0
15
     you offer any suggestions to Vinny about how to handle
16
     what he was upset about?
17
            Α
                     No.
18
            Q
                     At some point did you report what
19
     happened on December 1st to anyone in administration?
20
            Α
                     Yes.
21
                     And who was that?
            0
22
                     Deb Caddick.
            Α
23
                     And did you discuss it with her that
24
     day, December 1st?
25
            Α
                     Yes.
```

69 1 Okay. And what did you speak about? Q 2 That he had made these comments in class and I was uncomfortable. 3 4 And what did she say? Q 5 Α She told me that she had met with him 6 that morning concerning the write-up from November 22nd. 7 What else did she say? 8 Q 9 I don't recall. Α 10 Do you recall if you and Miss Caddick 11 talked about whether Vinny needs the Foundations in 12 College Math class? 13 I don't recall discussing that. 14 Did you discuss other students in the 0 15 class who might have overheard these comments? 16 Α She asked me to write up what happened 17 and to include any names of nearby students. 18 Q At this point had you written up a 19 student conduct form? 20 Α No. 21 Why not? Q 22 It wasn't until she told me that she Α 23 had met with him that morning that I -- I had felt 24 uncomfortable but then it turned into feeling more 25 threatened by his comments in retaliation.

```
70
 1
                    During the class are the Drexel,
 2
     Matthew Lawrence, and your street number the sum total
     of the remarks you considered threatening?
 3
                    Maxwell Lawrence.
 4
            Α
 5
                    Oh, sorry, Maxwell.
            Q
 6
            Α
                    But yes.
 7
                    Did you later have a conversation with
     Officer Talbut about this issue?
 8
 9
                    Yes.
            Α
10
                    Okay. When was that?
            Q
11
            Α
                    That evening he called me.
12
                    Okay. And did you describe what had
            0
     happened in class?
13
14
            Α
15
                    And what did he say to you?
            Q
16
            A
                    I don't recall.
17
                    You don't recall anything of what he
            Q
     said to you in that conversation?
18
19
            Α
                    No.
20
                     (Exhibit F was marked.)
21
     BY MS. YOUNG:
22
                    Give Exhibit F to you and ask you to
23
     look it over.
24
                    (Reviews document).
            Α
25
                    Okay. Can you identify both pages of
            Q
```

71 1 this document? 2 The front, the first page is an email I 3 sent on the evening of December 1st; and the second 4 page is the written description of what happened in class that day. 5 6 Okay. And it's your testimony that Miss Caddick asked you to write this. 7 8 Α Yes. 9 Q Did she tell you why she wanted you to 10 write this up? 11 Α No. 12 Did Miss Caddick either on December 1st 13 or subsequent to that tell you that Vinny would not be 14 in your class anymore? On the morning of December 2nd I 15 16 received an email that said they were going to look 17 into it and he would not be in my class that day. 18 Q Okay. Subsequent to that did you hear 19 anything from anyone in administration as to whether 20 Vinny would be in your class? 21 I received an email on the 2nd from 22 quidance asking for work. 23 0 Did it have any other information in 24 it? 25 Α The dates that they wanted work for.